



DROUGHT

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Drought is a complex phenomenon which is often difficult to monitor and define. A drought is a condition of moisture deficit sufficient to have an adverse effect on vegetation, animals, and humans over a sizable area. It usually refers to a period of below-normal rainfall, but drought can also be caused by drying bores or lakes or anything that reduces the amount of liquid water available. Drought can impact many sectors of the economy and operates on many different time scales.



HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

Howard County has experienced 13 Drought events from 1950 to 2019. All 13 events occurred between 1995 and 2017. According to U.S. Drought Portal, since 2000, the longest duration of drought (from moderate, D1 to exceptional drought, D4) in Maryland lasted 48 weeks beginning on June 7th, 2016 and ending on May 2nd, 2017. The most intense period of drought occurred the week of October 4th, 2016 where the exceptional drought affected 52.13% of Maryland land.

WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

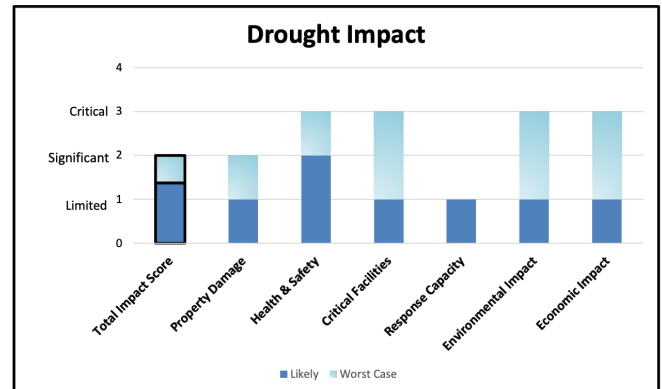
There is an expected 11-30% Chance of Annual Occurrence of a Drought in Howard County. In the most likely Drought scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Significant.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Droughts have a uniform probability of occurrence across the entire county.
- Most of California has been stuck in a severe drought since 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [United States Geological Service](#)
- [National Integrated Drought Information System](#)



Drought Risk Profile				
	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	2.1 Infrequent-Likely		50%
	Impact	1.3 Limited-Significant	2 Significant	40%
CONSEQUENCE	Warning Time	1 Very Long	1 Very Long	5%
	Duration	4 Very Long	4 Very Long	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		1.8	2.1	

